

*History and  
Reminiscences  
of  
Eastend  
and  
District*



*Dedicated*

*to those men and  
women who, by their  
courage, enterprise  
and selfish devotion,  
have developed this  
town and district of  
Eastend*

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## Introduction

THE TOWN OF EASTEND, with a population of 700 people, is situated in the Frenchman River Valley at the point where this river leaves the Cypress Hills. These rugged hills with their escarpments and deep, brush-filled coulees and ravines give the town a background, which, together with irrigation, encouraging the growing of trees and gardens, make Eastend the most striking and picturesque town of South-west Saskatchewan.

The earliest settlers of the district were one of the bands of Metis that migrated west after the Red River Rebellion. It then became one of the first North-west Mounted Police detachments established from Fort Walsh, and was the heart of the cattle range for many years.

Today the plains of the district are entirely given over to grain growing, with cattle ranches scattered through the breaks of the Cypress Hills. The C.P.R. maintains a thrice-weekly train service from the east, and on alternate days a train from the west. Mail from the east is brought in daily by carrier service. The C.P.R. maintains a truck transport for freight from the east.

There are three grain elevators—one Pool elevator with an annex, having storage room for 37,000 bushels of grain, and two Pioneer elevators, each with an annex, with room for 110,000 bushels.

Eastend has two general stores and one grocery, a branch of the Bank of Montreal, and a branch of the Savings and Credit Union. There are three hardware and five implement dealers. There are combination repair shops and garages which also give welding service. There are two service stations, but car and truck gasoline may be bought at six different sets of pumps at various places. There are four bulk sales agencies, a Co-op. store and Lockor Plant. There is one qualified electrician, one lumber yard. The P.F.R.A. and L.I.D. No. 526 maintain local offices and there is a resident Agricultural Representative.

Eastend is in Health Region No. 1, and has an 18-bed Union Hospital with X-ray facilities, and one local doctor. There is a resident dentist and a drug store with a qualified pharmacist. United, Roman Catholic and Anglican churches have offered spiritual guidance to the residents of Eastend and district since the town's inception. Eastend School Unit No. 8 has an office and maintenance shop in Eastend. The local grade school consists of two separate brick buildings, and the high school is a combination project of both the Unit and the Local School Board, and is part of the Community Memorial Hall. There are facilities here for Technical and Home Economics instruction, Drama and Recreation, with eight teachers on the staff. Recreation facilities include one theatre, a curling rink, enclosed skating rink. There is an improved bathing area in the Frenchman River, tennis courts, a ball grounds, rodeo grounds with corrals and race track. The Memorial Hall is the centre of indoor sports.

The Cypress Hotel at Eastend has room for 70 guests, and maintains licensed premises. A barber shop is operated in conjunction with a pool room and serves light lunches. There is a day-time cafe with meat market and bakery in addition.

The Eastend Enterprise is the local weekly paper.



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## Synopsis of the Natural History of Eastend District

ON approaching Eastend from the east one sees the Cypress Hills rising out of the surrounding plains like an island out of the sea. These hills in the past were coveted and prized by many tribes of Indians for their bounteous gifts of nature.

Today, the white man has reserved large tracts of them for public parks and they are looked upon as nature's own museum of Natural History. In the escarpments may be found and studied many strata showing the changes from deep sea to shallow sea with marine fossils, terminating with the white mud. Above this fresh water deposit, between the white mud and the coal seam, fossils of that curious life known as the dinosaur may be collected. Above the coal, fossils of fresh water invertebrates and leaves of the early deciduous trees and the Sequoia are found and near the top fossils of the early Tertiary mammals of the Oligocene period (the only Oligocene fossils, at present, found in Canada), such as the three-toed horse, the cursorial rhinoceros, the giant pig, the titanotherium, etc. A fair collection of these fossils may be seen in the Eastend School Museum.

For the angler, Rainbow and Lock Leven trout, pickerel, perch, ling and many other species may be caught in the creeks, the Cypress Lake and the Frenchman river.

During the summer these hills harbor a large number of birds, including many of the species rarely found in any other part of Canada. The late Mr. L. B. Potter, of Eastend, recorded 218 species, only 24 species staying for the winter.

When the hunting season comes, the great number of hunters that come from afar attest to the plentiful supply of deer and that strange little animal that is neither goat or deer—the prong-horned antelope.



Photo by R. Simon

### Antelope in the Cypress Hills

In the fur-bearing animals there are beaver, mink, skunk, muskrat, etc. Some otter have been seen.

There are many different species of rodent including that peculiar creature the kangaroo rat; and again, warm country creatures that have managed to survive. In the Frenchman River valley there are horned toads, scorpions, hog-nosed vipers, that are common in Arizona, and also the only prairie-dog town in Canada.

Volumes could be written on the subjects just mentioned in this brief sketch.



Photo by R. Simon

### Prairie Dog Town near Val Marie



Partial skull of Triceratops at School Museum

The Flora is particularly abundant, the plants of the plains being mixed with many of those of the Rocky Mountains. As an example, spruce and pine are in great profusion, yet, there are no naturally-growing spruce and pine for hundreds of miles in any direction. There are also a few plants of warmer climates, that have somehow adapted themselves to this cold climate and still survive, such as the sub-tropical Yucca.

## Early History of Eastend

(By H. S. Jones)



Eastend Townsite as it looked prior to 1913

**E**ASTEND had its beginning in a coulee about four miles north of the present town. This coulee is now known as Chimney Coulee and was evidently a favorite camping spot of the early pioneers and takes its name from the stone chimneys that were left standing after the abandoned shacks of these early pioneers had disintegrated. The last of these chimneys collapsed in 1915.

Isaac Cowie, in his book "Company of Gentlemen Adventurers," reports having built a Hudson's Bay trading post at the east end of the Cypress Hills in 1871, and from his description of the site it could only have been in this coulee, as he practically mentions a lake that drained off from both ends, the north end running into the Swift Current and so to the Hudson Bay; the south end into the Frenchman, and so to the Gulf of Mexico. The only lake in the country of this nature was opposite the Chimney Coulee on the east side of the valley and which has since been drained by the C.P.R. He records that during the winter of '71 to '72 he purchased 750 large grizzly bear skins, one of them measuring 13 feet from tip to tip, and 1500 elk hides, and that independent traders purchased as many more. Owing to the hostility of the Blackfoot Indians the post was abandoned in the Spring of 1872, and was afterwards burned by the Indians.

In 1873 some sixty families of Metis built a village and Roman Catholic chapel in this coulee, and was called by them Chapel Coulee. Mr. John Laframboise, who lived there when a young man, informed me that they were visited by two priests, Fathers Lestanc and DeCorby. There was also a cemetery with some six graves, which can still be discerned. These people were very primitive, living by hunting, with an almost straight meat diet, like the Indians. Their household effects were very meager, not even having stoves. While the families that scattered into the nearby coulees built a small shack for each family, those that stayed in the village built long shed-like buildings about fourteen feet wide and from thirty to forty feet long, partitioned every ten or twelve feet with a stone fireplace and chimney in each partition. Each partition was occupied by one family, with only a dirt floor.



The Last Chimney.

Frank Bennett, Archie Crawford, H. S. Jones

I saw only one of these old cabins with a floor and it was made of hewn poplar slabs about a foot wide and four feet long.

There had also been a massacre in this coulee, the bones being gathered up and buried by the North-west Mounted Police, and since the time of the writer, Indians have held pow-wows here. On leaving they left the trees decorated with blue and yellow streamers and packages and plugs of tobacco for the departed.

The Cypress Hills always abounded with game; they also contained a plentiful supply of lodge-poles, berries of all kinds, spruce gum used by the Indians for chewing and plants used by them for medicine, dye and eating. These hills were claimed by the Piegan and Blackfoot from the west, and the Cree and Assiniboine from the east, and whenever Indians of these different tribes met in them there was always a fight. On the occasion of the mentioned massacre a band of Crees were camped in the Chimney Coulee, the squaws, old men and children were picking berries while the younger men went out onto the east bench to hunt. They were spotted by a band of Blackfoot from the hills near Eastend, who went out after them and defeated them. They then followed the Cree's tracks back to their camp and promptly cleaned up. This story was gleaned from Indians with a Metis as an interpreter.

In 1876 the North-west Mounted Police established a detachment in this coulee and was called by them East End, as it was situated at the east end of the Cypress Hills and was also the east end of a police patrol from Fort Walsh.

The first white man to attempt to settle in the district was Mr. Tom Doyle, who came from Ontario with cattle and built a cabin on the bank of the Frenchman River in 1883. He found the country very dry and hay too scarce so he moved to be nearer hay and built a cabin in a coulee behind Mr. Topham's ranch,

which is still known as Doyle's coulee. In later years he moved to Skull Creek where he lived till his death in 1922.

With the advent of the C.P.R., and after the rebellion of 1885, came a great change in the nature of the work of the Mounted Police and Chimney Coulee was found to be too out of the way and in 1887 the East End detachment was moved down to the Frenchman River. They took possession of Mr. Doyle's vacated cabin, which was always used by them as the mess room. The rest of the detachment buildings were built by the Police. This detachment was about 200 yards south of the east railway bridge.



Mounted Police Post in Eastend, 1887-1914

The first permanent settlers of the Eastend district were Miles Bolton (now W. Caton), and Spencer Pearse (now J. Howard) who came in in 1885, soon to be followed by others. By the Spring of 1898, starting at the head of the Little Frenchman were the following ranches: Harry Cross (now W. White), Frank Cross (now H. Noland), Hill (now Topham), Spencer Pearse (now J. Howard), E. Potter (now R. Stredwick), Pollock and Axton (now Frances Baird); in Jones' Coulee, Stearns and Sons; on the North Fork of the Swift Current, Jack Clark. There was no other settlement between here and Wood Mountain. Maple Creek was the town of these settlers, and was the only town between Moose Jaw and Medicine Hat.



Chimney Coulee Police Post, 1878

The man with the medals on was William Francis, a veteran of the Crimean War, who was one of the barbers that sounded the "Charge" at Balaclava. He was not allowed to take part in the charge on account of his youth.



Mr. Spencer Pearse, one of the first settlers

I arrived in Maple Creek in the middle of April, 1898, my destination being Mr. Dan Pollock's for whom I was going to work. I left Maple Creek with Mr. Jim Mann, of Skull Creek, who was to take me as far as Mr. Charlie McCarthy's ranch on Bear Creek, which would put me quite a distance toward my destination. Mr. Mann told me that they had had a bad blizzard at the end of March that had not all disappeared. We passed by the carcasses of quite a few cattle and one horse that had been victims of the storm. Mr. Char-

lie McCarthy was the manager for Gordon and Ironsides of Winnipeg, who used to ship cattle from Manitoba to be turned loose on the range along the Frenchman River. Mr. McCarthy had to brand them and take them over to their range. When I arrived there he had just received a shipment of three hundred head. They were short-handed so they were quite pleased to get what help they could from a green kid, if it were only keeping the fire going and the irons hot. After the cattle were branded they rustled a horse and saddle for me and I was to help Mr. McCarthy's brother Sandy to drive the cattle to their range. Then Sandy would take me to my destination and bring the horse back. Before leaving I said goodbye to Mrs. McCarthy little thinking I would not see another white woman for more than a year, when I would see her again. Those Manitoba cattle were all gentle and were known in the west as "dogies," they were much harder, slower and more tedious to handle than range cattle. We had quite a bit of bush to go through before we got to the summit of the hills, but we managed to get through alright without losing any. I found Sandy to be a very dour Irishman; I do not think he had ever laughed in his life. He was about 35, spoke with a strong Irish accent and started everything he had to say with an "Innade." When we were well out on the Cypress Hills plateau I noticed a peculiar reddish



East End Police Post, 1878. Sergt. Holph seated at the corner. The rest are Metis

Photo by Geo. Shephard



spot on a hill, so I asked Sandy what it was. He replied, "Indade, I don't know." Well, I thought I am going to find out, so rode toward it. The nearer I got the stranger it appeared. When I got right up to it, it popped up like a Jack in the Box; it scared my horse so badly that I knew all about what it felt like to be piled. The spot had been two little antelope. Sandy had to chase my horse for about two miles before he caught it. He brought him back to me with "Indade you will have to stay with 'em better than that." That evening we got to Mr. Harry Cross' ranch where we corralled the dogs for the night. The next day we got them to the Frenchman River valley and turned them loose. We then had to ride about eight miles to Mr. Pollock's—my destination.

At this time, other than the few cattle owned by the settlers, the bulk of the cattle were owned (1) by Gordon & Ironsides, of Winnipeg who had about 2,000 head branded T H. They had no ranch but they were managed by Mr. Charles McCarthy, of Bear Creek, who used to keep a rider who boarded at Mr. Pollock's. Spare hay was bought from the settlers and any cattle that needed feed during the winter were run into the nearest ranch at which hay had been bought, by this rider; (2) the Canadian Land & Ranch Co., who branded "76"; (3) there were hundreds of long-horn Texas steers, principally Circle Diamond, belonging to the Bloom Cattle Co., of Montana. The Montana range had been fed off by sheep and the big cattle outfits of Montana depended on this country for their beef.

At the end of June and beginning of July, 1898, the "76" and the Circle Diamond rounded up all the cattle along the Frenchman River to a flat about four miles below Eastend the largest bunch of cattle I ever saw, numbering several thousand head. I spent some time with them while the American cattle were all cut out and driven south; then the Canadian stock were cut out according to their different brands and then taken to where they belonged where all the calves would be branded. The Canadian cattle were all mixed—cows, calves,

steers and heifers—and were far superior to the American cattle, which were all big, long-horned Texas steers. These cattle were very tall and narrow, very deep in front with small hind quarters and very long horns. They ranged in color from brindles and buckskins to red, brown, black and pintos. They were much wilder than the Canadian cattle and could run like deer. When driven, their joints would crack, their hoofs click and horns knock, making quite a clatter. The American punchers all had a big six-shooter on their belts, but the Canadian punchers were unarmed.

The boss of the "76" wagon was Fred Craig and that of the Circle Diamond was W. Cooper. The food on the round-up was good—plenty of fresh meat, evaporated fruit and some canned stuff; yet the cook made a lot of difference. The food on the "76" wagon was a lot better than the Circle Diamond, while their supplies were about the same. The cook on the "76" wagon was a Mr. MacIntyre, an ex-C.P.R. dining car chef; he had proper bread, pies, etc. The cook on the Circle Diamond was an old negro called Deacon. He made very nice sour, dough bread and biscuits; the rest of his cooking was pretty rough. This negro was a very interesting man to talk to; he had been a slave and could remember all the tough times the negroes went through after the Civil War, when they were given their freedom.

In the fall of 1899, ladies began to arrive. Mr. Axton married Miss Norah Bertram, of Bear Creek, in Oct., and in June, 1900, Mrs. Dan Pollock arrived on the ranch. She received a very unusual welcome for a bride, as the morning after her arrival, lightning started a prairie fire near the head of Chimney Coulee and she spent most of that day making tea and lunches for a hungry, dirty bunch of fire-fighters.

During the summer of 1900, Mr. Harry Cross succeeded in getting enough signatures to a petition for a post office, and a weekly service was started from Maple Creek during the winter of 1900-01. The mail left Maple Creek on Friday, called at a post office on Bear Creek named Skitberren (Postmaster Sandy McCarthy), then to Skull Creek (Postmaster Jim Mann), then on to Eastend, returning to Maple Creek on Saturday. Mr. Harry Cross was the first Eastend postmaster. In 1904 George Bollingbrooke held the post for a year, then Mr. Ben Rose kept it till it was moved to Eastend town in 1913, with a twice-weekly service from Maple Creek.



Davis Creek and Whitehead round-up outfit starting out



76 Round-up Wagon



Eastend Post Office. Ben Ross, F. E. Wright, H. S. Jones, H. M. Underhill

In 1901, Mr. George Watson built a ranch on the north bank of the Frenchman, right opposite where Fred Williamson's ranch is now. At this time complaints were made about the great number of Montana cattle that were feeding on Canadian grass, which caused the enactment of new laws. To overcome these the American cattlemen had to have a Canadian brand which resulted in the Bloom Cattle Company buying the George Watson ranch in 1902 and also the cattle brand T Down of Mr. Colby Campbell, of Mapiot. The T Down came to be established with an old Texan named Morgan as foreman; after his term the job fell to Buck Hardin, now of Shaunavon, then to Harry Otterson, now of Shaunavon.

In 1901, two men named Surrey and Menzies built a ranch near the Eastend Police Post, their brand being Z-X. In 1903 these men sold out to Messrs Enright & Strong, who were bringing in 800 head of cattle from Montana. They were unloaded at Glasgow, Mont., and brought overland. At the time of the purchase of the ranch they were being held on the border at White Water. After the ranch had been purchased, the writer was hired to help drive the cattle up to Eastend and arrangements had been made for the Police to inspect the cattle at Eastend on May 28th. Mr. Huff (Enright & Strong's foreman) and I left Eastend to fetch the cattle on a beautiful warm May morning. We travelled all day in our

shirt sleeves, little expecting the trip would be so hazardous that only great good fortune prevented tragedy. The day after we arrived at the camp a terrific wind blew the entire day, and no move was made. The next day was cloudy and cold, but a good move was made. During the night a cold fog drifted in. Being on night guard, at daylight I could just see the camp and saw the horses driven in for the riders to change horses. I noticed the horses suddenly stampede, so I left the cattle and followed the horses, which I was just able to keep in sight. I was followed by another man who was only able to keep me in sight. It was several miles before I was able to head them off and the other man to catch up with me. He was riding bareback and was the only other man with a horse and he had not had time to put a saddle on his horse. We had the horses but had come miles, losing all sense of direction and could see nothing. We headed out on a guess and by good fortune came across the wagon track, which he had only had to follow about half a mile when the camp came in sight. We made good progress that day but the fog stayed right with us till the next morning when a violent wind rose and bombarded us with lumps of clear ice about an eighth of an inch square. This soon turned to snow and it was all we could do to hold the cattle against the storm. For the next forty-eight hours it was so bad that astéscope would

drift past and would stand for several minutes in the shelter made by the cattle.

On the third day the storm moderated and it was decided to move to try to get the cattle to a more sheltered spot. We did not know where we were but that if we followed the stream we were in the right place. It took us to the river. The tent was hopelessly snowed in so we left it standing. Hogtied a couple of calves and then we went on to a line of the weaker cattle and left them. The cows following the tied calves in the wagon gave us a good lead. The draw led us to a coulee that by another piece of luck brought us to the river bottom about a quarter of a mile from the old deserted Stone Pile Police Post.

After getting the cattle across the river which was very high, we were able to leave the cattle in the bush and get into the police post for a well-earned rest. Then the storm started again as bad as ever. On waking in the morning the cook and Mr. Huff were the only ones that could see. The eyes of the rest of us were so badly swollen and inflamed by the snow. On going back for the tent we found all the cattle we left behind had died. We arrived at Eastend two days late but an hour ahead of the police and voters, who were followed by Messrs. Enright and Strong, who were driving a democrat with a very interesting load. They in turn were followed by Mr. John Stewart, the manager of the Hudson Cattle Company, in a buggy, also with a load. The cattle were soon pronounced OK and after a two-day celebration the Z-X ranch was declared open.



Messrs. Strong and Enright, owners of the Z-X Ranch

During the summer of 1902 the country was sub-divided. In February of that year I settled near Chinney Coulee. I had cut and hauled enough dry fire-killed logs to build a shack and stable and by the middle of April had the walls of my shack about three logs high. When I was visited by a policeman, who demanded a timber permit, which I did not have, and could not secure, as I was not a homesteader and could not homestead as the country was not sub-divided. He demanded

from me a good pair running fast for the logs that I had. I could not quit as I had purchased horses, harness, wagon, tools, etc., and would have no means of getting myself home. I finally settled with him for \$5.00 for the logs for the shack and \$5.00 for the logs for the stable. At the same time a Mr. Frank Bertram from Boston, Mass., had started to build on the Frenchman river bank about two miles below the Eastend Post. He was in very different circumstances than myself as he had made no outlay. His horses, wagon, tools, etc., had been borrowed from an uncle and cousins he had on Bear Creek. He refused to pay. By the time the policeman got his report to Misses Green and Inspector Moffat had come out Mr. Bertram had all the log work done on his cabin and it was all ready for the roof. Inspector Moffat had him taken to the Post and fined him two cents a running foot, or in default three months in jail. Mr. Bertram paid but headed back to Boston. Why? Mr. Bertram and myself were the only ones of the early settlers molested by the Police. I never found out.

A few months after a Mr. Barnett came along and took possession of Bertram's cabin, finished it and lived there many years. It was in this cabin that the first District Poll was held for the first Provincial election—an election not without its humorous side. The Liberal organizer was a red-headed stranger named Scott, reported to have been a cousin of Walter Scott, the Liberal leader. The Conservative organizer was a man that believed the only way to a man's mind was through his stomach by means of whisky. He landed out with a good supply of whisky and during his electioneering he had to dilute and doctor this supply so much to keep the quantity up that by election day it was very potent stuff. On election day Mr. Axton was deputy returning officer and I was poll clerk. Enright and Strong at this time had a large number of men working on the irrigation dam and ditches and a lot of them were not on the voters' list, which made a lot of swearing in. This was permissible and there was nothing said until the Chinese cook arrived to vote. At this time a Chinese could not become naturalized, but this Chinese said he was born a British subject, having been born in Hong Kong and could take the oath that he was a British subject, and wasn't an Indian. After a lot of argument he was allowed to vote. The Conservative organizer kept outside the polling booth, keeping himself busy by giving all the voters that would take one, a drink before voting and another one after. If those that partook of this beverage hung around and visited for a while they "died" right there, others that got onto their horses and left for home "died" on the way, and riderless horses were being picked up all the next day. I do not remember what the figures were but in spite of the whisky the Liberals had the majority at this poll.

While I never saw any mangle in this district, it was very bad in others, and spreading further every year. In order to stamp it out

The Department of Agriculture made a regulation that all cattle were to be dipped twice each year with a nine- or ten-day interval. As near as I can remember the first year was 1904 and the last 1907. The equipment for dipping consisted of a steam boiler, a tank to hold the sulphur in, a vat in the ground about 30 feet long, the end at which the cattle entered was

the top of this slope were two dripping pens each holding about a dozen head, the doors so built that the drippings ran back into the vat. One large corral that held about 200 head, a small corral that held about a dozen head with a shoot leading to the vat. There were two men, one each side of the vat, each with a long pole with an iron yoke on the end of it. These men had to put the yoke over the neck of each

right under. There was also an inspector to see that the mixture was properly cooked and

strong enough and the right temperature. The procedure was to fill the small corral out of the big one, close the gate, then crowd them down the shoot into the vat. This all had to be done on foot as a horse would have been gored. When the large corral was emptied it was filled again from the herd. This all made an immense amount of risky work. Some of the cattle would get on the light and chase all of us out of the corral. There were many narrow escapes. The narrowest that I saw, a man got caught by a steer before he was able to climb out of the corral. Fortunately the steer's horns were wide enough that the points went each side of his body and when the points hit the corral rail they were long enough that he was not crushed. He got out of it with just a slight bruise on each side of his body where the horns went past. One fighting steer, after getting into the dripping pen, saw two men who were doing the ducking and rushed back into the vat in his effort to turn in and he could not get up the sheet iron at the entrance end. The only way we could turn him round was to turn him head over heels with a rope. When finally straightened out he rushed out through the dripping pen into the herd of dipped cattle and milled them as if they had been stirred with a giant spoon.

The worst pest for the rancher was the wolf—a very cunning, intelligent animal very hard to trap and rarely took a poisoned bait. Very few dogs would tackle a wolf. They would chase them and on catching up with them would just run with them. About the only way to get them was by running them down on horseback, which was done principally by Indians and Metis. They could pull down a good-sized cow quite easily. Their method was to get right at a cow, then to jump and set back on it; another would grab the flank of the other hind leg that was bearing the cow's weight. When the cow fell they all piled on top of her and it was all over in a very short time.

Wolves were very bad in 1906 and the

ranchers of the district taxed themselves one cent per head for cattle and two cents for horses. The money was paid to the postmaster. In 1906 the Government gave a supplementary bounty of ten dollars per head to the Government wolf bounty of ten dollars per head. During 1906 and 1907 this bounty was paid out on seventy-three wolves, all caught between Farwell Creek and the South Fork of the Swift Current. During the winter of 1911, there was a pack of eight wolves roaming in the district. Mr. Frank Cross shot an old mare and put poison in the carcass and got six of them. No wolves have been seen in this district since.

The summer of 1906 was very wet. It seemed to rain for weeks and the cowboys ran knee deep and the Frenchman river was as high

as the houses of that day became so sodden that water dripped from them whether it rained or not. It stayed so wet that we had difficulty getting the hay in. The winter started early with a light snow, on the 15th of November, followed by a terrific three-day blizzard that started on the 11th. From then till Christmas was a succession of bad storms. The range cattle were dying in December. One would

come out of a hayrack and get up to a snowbank and on going up to it all it could do was roll its eyes. Others that had lain down would be half drifted over with snow. The heat of their bodies would thaw the snow and it would then freeze, leaving them helpless in a cast. In other places one would see a bunch of thirty or forty head all dead but one or two standing humped up waiting to die. Some would drift into a bend of the river and get snowed in. The willow bushes would be all they had to chew on. Some branches as thick as a wrist would be chewed. Some of these cattle died on their feet partly propped up by a bush. When Spring came much of the country looked like a battle field and one could not get away from the smell of carrion. In one corner I saw where some cattle had died on the deep snow and when the snow melted it left carcasses lodged in tree tops.

The Spring was very cold and fences were still out of sight in snow on the open prairie in July and trees sticking out of the snow like mid-winter with the surrounding trees in full leaf. The big cattle outfits out of business.

Although the summer of 1907 was very cold, it was also very dry, but there was as much moisture left from 1906 that we had a crop. 1908 was very hot and dry, nothing grew. On making a trip to Maple Creek I stopped at Mr. Charles McCarthy's ranch for lunch, and he told me that it was the first crop failure he had had for 14 years. It was the first of a succession of droughts and the water level has been low ever since. In 1909 a heavy rain came through, followed in 1908 by a much larger party who left a long string of survey stakes behind them. About every half-mile a

square sod was cut out of the ground and a stake with markings on was driven in the hole till the top of the stake was level with the bottom of the hole, then the sod was replaced. When the track was built in 1913 the first thing the engineer did was to hunt up these buried stakes. It was quite interesting to watch the engineer set up his transit, take a squint, then make some calculations call out to his men, so many feet north, so many feet east. The men would measure it out, lift the sod and recover the stake that had been buried five years before.

After the railway had been surveyed, farmers started coming in and soon patches of un-

fenced crop began showing up. Herd law was established and cattle and horses on the range became a thing of the past. A new era had begun.

The Town of Eastend was surveyed and building was started in the Fall of 1913. The steel was laid into the town in May, 1914.

The R.N.W.M. Police staff was cut to two men who were quartered in the town and the old East End Police Post was abandoned and was used as barracks by the volunteers of the first World War. The buildings were afterwards sold to Mr. Phil Lott and the house occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cripps is built of the material.

## Eastend N.-W.M. Police Detachment & Diary

(By H. S. Jones)

The man in charge of a N.W.M.P. detachment had to keep a diary, and the East End Post's diaries went back to 1876. When the Post was abandoned no one took any care of these diaries and they all disappeared. In the summer of 1954, Miss Kekott, one of the school teachers, found one for the year 1893. While this diary does not record any important event one may gather from it the life led at a detachment at this time, and compare the vast difference in the duties of the Mounties of that period with those of today, and read the names of many of the pioneers of the country. Of those mentioned only two are known to be living today—Mr. Harry Cross and Mr. Spencer Pearce.

Following are a few excerpts from this diary with a few lines of explanation.

### May—Friday 12th—1893

Inspector Wood and Constable Livingstone with team arrived from Fairwell to inspect detachment. Constables Lloyd and Spencer accompanied Inspector Wood to the site of the old detachment on Swift Current (Chimney Coulee).

N.B.—Inspector Wood was the father of Ex-Commissioner Wood.

### May—Monday 29th—1893

Constables Lloyd and Bell left for Stone Pile with team and saddle horses Nos. 1617 and 1732, to plough fire guard there. Constable Thompson patrolled South.

Two halfbreeds named Laframboise passed this a.m. going North to Swift Current on Belknap Trail from Fort Assiniboine. The party consists of two men and three ponies, dark brown, two hind feet white, branded — on left hip; a buckskin and chestnut branded TB on left shoulder. Heavy thunderstorm and rain p.m.



Sgt. Dan Pollock, N.W.M.P. from 1886 to 1893, one of Eastend's earliest settlers

**June—Tuesday 9th—1883**

Constable Spencer left for Stone Pile. The "76" round-up consisting of 12 men and 40 horses and 1,000 head of cattle passed here today and camped at Rock Creek. Fine.

**June—Sunday 11th—1883**

Constables Spencer and Lloyd patrolled South and found the four horses lost by Moss of Malta, Montana. As we unable to catch and hold them Mr McCarthy of Bear Creek took them with his horses and will let them run in his pasture till claimed.

Mr Doyle and round-up party returned from the South today with 300 head of Maple Creek cattle. They report at least 3,000 head of American cattle running on the ground which they covered.

**June—Saturday 17th—1883**

Constables Thompson and Bell patrolled South to look for horses. Constables Spencer and Lloyd clearing saddlery. Mr. Dimmock of Bear Creek is cutting logs North of the upper crossing of the Frenchman Creek to build a ranch for Messrs. Bolton and Pearse who are about to settle there.

N.B.—Bolton and Pearse were the first permanent settlers in the district. They took up residence in the Spring of 1885.

**July—Saturday 22nd—1883**

Parsons, Gordon and McCarthy left here for Maple Creek at 9 a.m. J. Fleming and L. Leveille arrived from Oxarat ranch looking for horses. Sergeant Jones and Constable Pann spent all afternoon getting one of McCarthy's steers out of quicksand. Scrubbed out bar racks, cleaned up outside. Inspected arms, etc. and found all in good shape. Put detachment through manual and firing exercises.

**August—Friday 4th—1883**

Sergeant Jones patrolled about 15 miles N.E.

Prairie fire gradually getting nearer. Sergeant Jones, Constable Bennett and McCarthy's men worked from 7 p.m. till after midnight, keeping fire out of the river bottom. Managed to extinguish all that had come down to the bottom but could not stop it from going West and North. Very warm.

**August—Saturday 5th—1883**

All hands fighting fire till 4 p.m. Very warm.

**September—Thursday 14th—1883**

Constable Lloyd left for Maple Creek with reports and get horse No. 1783 shod. Round-up wagon from "76" ranch here this a.m. N—N round-up have nearly all the American cattle gathered into Whitemud River bottom. Sergeant Pollock scouted around North-east



Eastend Post, 1884. Sergt. Pollock with dogs. Const. Arton in uniform next door



Eastend Post, 1887-1888

about twenty miles looking for hay. Feed good but very little hay. Cattle have destroyed it by tramping down.

N.B.—1883 was the end of a long drought period, from 1897 on, all the detachment's hay came from within three miles of the Post.

#### October—Tuesday 24th—1883

Constables Bennett and Meredith herding cattle in forenoon trying to cut out the "75" cattle from Doyle's and McCarthy's but could not do so. Sergeant Pollock out in afternoon tried to drive them across the river, but could not do so. Snow about three inches deep. Two inches of ice on the river.

#### October—Tuesday 31st—1883

Sergeant Pollock, Constables Sinclair, Meredith and Devises cutting wood for winter, snowing. Heavy wind.

N.B.—Sergeant Pollock enlisted in the North-west Mounted Police in 1880. Served during the Red Rebellion with the rank of Sergeant. Left the Force in 1895. Settled on the South Fork of the Swift Current in 1896. Died in October, 1932, and was buried at Eastend.

Constable Sinclair was a member of the first troop of the N.W.M.P. to enter the Klondike. He won the Police gold medal for rifle shooting three years in succession. He died March 9th, 1953, and was buried at Shaunavon.



Eastend Townsite as it appeared in 1914

## Origin of some Place Names in Eastend District

(By H. S. Jones)

### Jones' Coulee

A man named Jones settled in this coulee in 1885. After a few years he moved to the Saskatchewan Landing where he became a partner in a firm known as Jones & Smart.

### Jumbo Butte

One of the N.W.M.P. who did the freighting for the Force was a very big man nicknamed Jumbo. I do not know his proper name. On one occasion he left Maple Creek with supplies to the Farwell, East End and Stone Pile detachments. After delivering the Farwell and East End supplies there was only a light load left at Stone Pile. As a small Post occupied only during the summer months he piled this light load on to the East End detachment's buck-board and left for Stone Pile. This was the last seen of Jumbo. The trail to Stone Pile passed near a butte. The East End buck-board and load was found on top of this butte. On top of the load was the horse's harness and Jumbo's uniform. Jumbo had turned his horses loose and left his load where it would be easily seen, and deserted. Hence Jumbo's Butte.

### Anxiety Butte

At the foot of this butte is the ranch of Mr. Dan Pollock, who was a man that had to be always worrying about something. This earned him the nickname of sometimes Old Anxious and sometimes Old Anxiety. When one of the early topographical survey parties came through they camped near Mr. Pollock's ranch. The boss of the party was so amused when he heard Mr. Pollock's nickname that he promptly put Anxiety Butte on the map.

### Bone Creek

This creek is known locally as the North Fork of the Swift Current. It is always Bone Creek on the maps, so named by the first geological survey party that came through this country in '79 and '80, because of the large amount of fossilized bone to be found along its head waters.

### Calf Creek

In this coulee there used to be a large cattle shed with corrals that were used for weaning calves.

### Old Man on His Back

On the west end of this ridge is a sugar-loaf butte, which when viewed from certain points gives the ridge a rough outline of a man lying on his back with his knees up.

### Farwell Creek

Abe Farwell was one of the early traders and was accused of being the leader in engineering the massacre of a band of Indians with three other white men just to rob them of their furs and horses. The incident is known as the Cypress Hills Massacre and was instrumental in the North-west Mounted Police be-



Sergt. G. Rolph beside Indian grave, located near Police Post.

The Indian's horse was killed at the grave, skinned and the corpse wrapped in the hide, thus assuring a horse to ride in "Happy Hunting Ground."

ing rushed in. When these men were brought to trial nothing could be proved against them. This massacre took place on Battle Creek.

### Skull Creek

A party of the early Mounted Police cut a road through the bush at this creek in order to cross it. They then erected a post to mark the spot. One of the men found an Indian skull and japed "it is the post of this post." This led to the creek being called Skull Creek.

### Klintonel

The first postmaster at this post office always signed his name Clinton L. Lewis, and when a post office official was asked to give the new post office a name he coined the word Klintonel.



First Stampede at Eastend, 1914. Bronchos were property of Mr. Ad. Day, Calgary, and used at Winnipeg Stampede.



# From Grassline to Gasoline

## HOMESTEADING EXPERIENCES

(By Jack Eifert)

**I**n the Spring of 1910, my pal and I decided to come to Canada after seeing a display of grains, garden produce, etc., shown by a Canadian immigration agent in our town of Anderson, Indiana. He also supplied us with literature and information about the "Last Best West" or "The Land of Milk and Honey." We filed on a half section each at Moose Jaw, after talking to a couple of farmers who had been inspecting the land and were going back to Minnesota to bring out their families, stock machinery and effects.

At that time of year—March, 1910—every train from the States was bringing in carloads of settlers and their effects. We went west to Gull Lake and decided to buy a team of oxen and wagon and go to our homestead 60 miles south into a country we had never been before. We paid \$250.00 for the oxen with harness and \$160.00 for a wagon. We next bought a breaking plow and enough lumber for the floor and roof of a sod shack and supplies we thought we might need, and next day, March 16th, 1910, we headed for our farms. We were the proud possessors of 320 acres of land each. Our first day of travel would up at a place called the "Fireguard Slough," about 16 miles from town. We got lost and were traveling south-east instead of south-west. My pal was head skipper and I was first navigator officer.

I said I wound up at the Fireguard Slough I meant in it. Those oxen headed for that slough regardless of what he said or did. He was hollering Geel Geel and pulling on the wrong line. Then we had an argument as to how we were going to get out of the mess. My pal suggested that one of us would have to take off his shoes, socks and pants and underwear and get into the water and unhook the team, then hitch them on to the back of the wagon on a long chain and pull the wagon backwards. He further stated that it was not going to be him. He was bigger than I was so I didn't argue with him, but proceeded to do as told. Just when I got into the water a rancher and his wife drove up and I hid in front of the wagon, in the water. They gave my pal instructions on how to reach the Police Post and a lot of other information that I

didn't need at that time as I was nearly frozen in that cold water. One of the oxen was named Jack and the other Bill. Bill didn't like me and I didn't like him as he had kicked me over and I thought that now was the time to get even with him. He decided that it was time to quit work for the day and after taking a drink of water laid down in it. I took a big kick at his ribs, forgetting I had no shoes on, and near broke my foot. We got out alright and camped that night at the Swift Current Creek.

The next night we camped at the Eastend N.W.M.P. Post. After supper I was looking at their diary, I noticed an item (Jan. 17 1907), "Dick brought in Constable So and So." I asked what was the story behind it. The cook said he wasn't stationed here at the time, but this is the story as it was told to me. Constable So and So was the new man here and the Sergeant in charge gave him old Dick to ride and told the Constable that if ever he got lost to give the horse his head and he would bring him home. One of the worst storms of the winter struck at this



A-homesteading we will go! Jack Eifert and his pal Fred Cariss set out from Gull Lake for their homestead in the South.

time while the Constable was on patrol duty. When the storm started he was headed with it so he kept the storm at his back. He was thinking that the storm was shifting and that instead of going north-east he was headed south-west. Finally he realized that he was lost, and decided to take a chance with the horse. When he arrived at the Post he didn't know where he was and had to be pulled out of the saddle, as he, the saddle and horse, were all frozen together. "Old Dick" was still alive at this time—just 22 years old, and pensioned off, no more work and oats three times a day. I went out to the stable to pat the old horse, just for good luck. I didn't know how old he lived to be. That night we figured we were about 16 miles from our land. The next day we started out for the farm. When we got about 8 1/2 miles south we had to cross a creek. We picked the narrowest place we could find which proved to be the deepest. We very nearly drowned the team. We managed to pull the draw pin and get the team out of the water, getting only our feet wet. We did not reach our land until the next day, March 21st. We

put up out tent and stove and went to house-keeping. That was when we first used cow chips for fuel—otherwise known as grassoline.

That summer we dug rock and broke about 30 acres of land, put up a sod shack, dug a well 87 feet deep, after put up a 15 x 26 house, made a garden, put up several loads of hay, hauled wood and coal and fought prairie fire. That Fall we moved into Gull Lake for the winter. The wife came out to the farm in August.

The next Spring, 1911, we moved back to the farm. We managed to buy a team of horses, a few head of cattle, four pigs and some chickens. That summer I and one of the farmers, Mr. J. G. ... and kept ... about 60 acres more, besides I seeded the 20 acres to oats that we broke the year before. We did not get very much rain those two years and things did not look very good, until late in September, when it rained hard for 72 hours, the land was wet down more than six feet. We got two good crops after that rain, the wheat made 53 bushels to the acre and oats about a 100 bushels per acre. I sold the wheat to settlers coming in to homestead, for seed. It was Red Fife wheat.

The next year, 1914, we had enough moisture but we got hot winds and the crop did not amount to much. 10 bushels per acre, grade five. That year the Town of Eastend started to build, which gave us a market for what we had to sell, and things started to get better. Until then we had either to go to Gull Lake or Hartem, Mont., to do our trading. In 1916 we got too much rain and the crop suffered from rust. At this time we were introduced to a new wheat called Marquis. In January 1917 we got a real slap in the face. We went back to the States for a visit. The man we left on the place burned down the house, also 18 x 20, two-storey and well furnished, no insurance, a total loss. That kind of took the pep out of me and I had to start all over again.

Before the ... a new arrival was expected we depended on a wife and some neighbor women to see that the newcomer made a safe landing.

At this time we built our school house (Wylie School). We then had a place to hold church service and other meetings.

From then on, through the twenties, it was about one good crop to two poor ones. In the thirties it was a lot worse. We had grain to sell but no market for it. We received as low as 15 cents per bushel for No. 1 wheat. We called those years the hungry thirties. In 1937 we sold cattle to the government for a cent a pound. Some of our neighbours died at this time. We were short of doctors, medicine, etc., and money was a scarce article. We had to bury the dead in a home-made coffin. The women in the neighbourhood would gather flowers and we would put them away the best we could. The government was giving relief cheques—eight dollars a month to a married couple. The people began to move out of the land of "milk and money" to Alberta and North-west Saskatchewan. The F.F.A. was organized giving the farmer a bonus cheque for his product as a ... Then came the F.F.A. This

put in dams and we began to irrigate the dry lands ... the ground that three inches was the right depth to break sod, any deeper breaking did not do as well or yield as many bushels per acre. We were using the binder to harvest our crops and big steam-engines for threshing. When a large threshing outfit came on to the farm it would take a large crew to operate the outfit. If the weather was good they would thresh your crop in a hurry, but if they struck bad weather it was very bad for the farmer as he had to feed all their horses and they would use up all his feed in a few days. There was a lot of dissatisfaction in this method. The gasoline engine was then coming into its own, and small tractors were being put on the market. Two or three farmers would get together and purchase a small thresher and tractor and do their own threshing. Horses were now the motive power the oxen were long past. We started to try out small tractors as motive power and found them a big help, but they needed much improvement. The implement companies saw a good market for small tractors and were not long in improving them. Their greatest improvement came when they were mounted on rubber, from then on it was

headers to harvest the crops. We would put the ... crop into stacks and then them ... weather was good. We would then burn the stubble and prepare the land for the next crop. We did not know anything about summerfallow. That was when our troubles really started. We would seed the crop in the ground, harrow it nicely to put a dust mulch top, then the wind would come and blow the crop out and take the soil with it. A few farmers were using dry plows and we noticed that the soil did not drift as badly when they were used as when the mould-board was used. We stopped burning the stubble and turned it back into the ground. It was left partly on top of the land and that stopped the soil from drifting. The implement firms got on to the ... and came out with the one-way. Another implement that came out was called the Noble blade. They all helped to keep the soil from

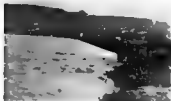
In 1927 the first combine in the district made its appearance and proved successful and have been improved to the self-propelled combine and today practically all the harvesting is done by combine.

Two other implements that are in general use are the wide-discer, with seeding attachment and an implement called the digger, the purpose of which is to break up the subsoil so that moisture can enter and bring small lumps of earth up to help combat soil drifting.

There has been a lot of changes made on the ... in the last forty-five years. The ... in which my farm is located (4-3 W 3rd), at one time had sixty-four occupied farms, today there are only seven, and three occupied part time. Yet there is a large increase in the amount of cultivated land.

We have come from ... to ... in motive power and from horse power through ... to the ...

## *Irrigation used by Enright and Strong*



Scenes above and below the Irrigation Dam

**I**N the late summer of 1904, Messrs. Enright & Strong brought in from Montana a civil engineer to plan an irrigation scheme. He chose for the site of the dam the spot where the present one is situated. He surveyed the ditches that Fall and had everything ready for the starting of the work in the Spring of 1905, and the work was completed and water was running through the ditches by September, 1906.

The old Dam was built like a weir and raised the water to the level of the ditch. When water was needed for irrigation a flush-board was put up on the top of the weir which pushed enough water down the ditch to irrigate some 500 acres.

In the Spring flood the water carried the ice over the weir without touching it. In the

Spring of 1915 the ice carried away the pile bridges of the C.P.R. These piles and bridge timbers jammed against the dam and the weight of the ice they collected pushed the dam right out. The C.P.R. had to pay Messrs. Enright & Strong \$11,000 damages. The dam was never re-built.

In 1935 the P.F.R.A. built a new dam on the same site, which was completed and put into operation in 1937. This dam is a reservoir dam which holds 2,000 acre feet of water and irrigates 3,000 acres of land, which is cut up into 32 farms. When the reservoir is empty it is the site of the Cypress Lake storage reservoir that holds 108,000 acre feet of water. This water can also be used to refill a similar dam at Val Marie.



The P.F.R.A. Dam at the official opening in 1937

## First Meeting of Eastend Village Council

(By B. S. Walters)

THE first meeting of the Village Council of Eastend was held on March 30, 1914 with the following members present: John E. Gatscheno, overseer; Molitor and Kliney, councillors. Harry W. Mathieu, Village clerk. The population was 117.

The first year seems to have been, according to the minutes, a year of resignations and new appointments. The nuisance ground was established on a parcel of ground donated by J. C. Strong. Some wooden sidewalks were built. Dr Stewart started practice and a hospital was organized.

In 1915 was shown a new Council with R. V. Gregg as overseer, councillors J. C. Strong and A. H. Stevens. A. J. de L. Clark was Village clerk. Mr. Stewart and Dr. Mathieu were the doctors. The single tax system, which was then proposed, seemed to give the council much trouble and many problems presented themselves on account of the unsatisfactory working of this system.

The matter of fire equipment and establishing a fire brigade came up this year, a licensing bylaw was passed, an electric bylaw giving J. A. Daniels a franchise. The system of single tax was changed to a tax levied on land improvement and business. The Eastend school site, on Blocks 7 and 8 was granted. The school building was completed and accepted by the council. The hotel of Molitor & Day was destroyed by fire in the fall of this year. Licensed bars were also discontinued this year.

In 1915 there was again a new council, and much shifting around amongst its members and clerks took place. Owing to the young men of the community enlisting for active service, we find A. J. de L. Clark, A. H. Stevens and R. C. Thomson and Miss Iona Johansson all as volunteers in the war. An agreement was reached with Bert Jacobs for the building of the present hotel.

In 1917 we find S. F. Arthur, Barrister and Solicitor, secretary-treasurer of the Village Council.

In 1918, the year of the 'flu, during which many lives were lost, there was again a new Council, with A. E. Baker, Overseer, Councillors Englestad and J. Hazard. Dr DeSerres was Health Officer. Roads, Bridges and Sidewalks, together with Accounts incurred during the 'flu period received the attention of the Council. V. B. Lackey became Clerk during this year.

In 1919, W. T. Bickerton, Mayor, Councillors John Peterson and W. Miller. Difficulties with the electric light plant began to develop. Money was borrowed from the War Drive Fund to clear up the account incurred by the epidemic of influenza. A. G. Johnstone was also Clerk during part of this year. Application was made to have the village incorporated into a town, which came about in May, 1920.

1920, May 1st.—Eastend became a town, with W. T. Bickerton as Mayor. A. H. Stevens, W. P. Anderson, Ed. Youngberg, W. Miller and J. Peterson were Councillors. Roads and the establishing of a Band were matters to the forefront.

In the August 23rd of this year Byron Walters began as Town Clerk, which position he stills holds at this date.

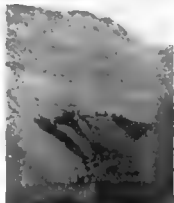
During the 30s the Council and Citizens spent much time and effort solving the relief problem.

The Irrigation Dam and System, formerly the property of Enright & Strong, was rebuilt in the years 1936 and 1937, and the town ditches were rebuilt at this time making water available to property holders of the town.

The general store of R. Dant, hardware of Larson & MacIntyre, and the pool hall of W. Marchbank were destroyed by a fire in 1951.

The disastrous flood took place in the Spring of 1955.

In 1956, Mrs. M. J. Johnstone, the owner of the townsite, donated her Lot 5, Block 33, Plan E, 1254, which she kindly donated to the Eastend United Church, on her 21st birthday.



Lignite Coal mining in the Cypress Hills

## Union Hospital

THE first Eastend Hospital was established in an abandoned restaurant and opened January 7th, 1915, with Miss Pattison as matron and Miss Johnston as assistant nurse. The directors were A. H. Stevens, D. Morrison and H. E. Leaf.

The hospital had to close for lack of funds on July 27th, 1917. It was re-opened August 20th, 1917. During the flu epidemic of 1918 the hospital was not large enough to accommodate the patients and the School was used to take care of the overflow. The hospital again closed for lack of funds.

In 1919 the Red Cross took over the hospital and managed it until 1924. For the next three years we had only a cottage hospital, managed first by Mrs. Carmell, and then by



Union Hospital at Eastend



Nurse Howe and triplets born to Mr. and Mrs. Albert Vaneur

Miss Booth, who became the first matron of the Jubilee Hospital, which was built in 1927 and had six beds. The Jubilee Hospital was kept running until the present Eastend Health Centre was opened. This Hospital, which has accommodation for twenty adult patients, four children and six infants, was dedicated by the Hon. T. C. Douglas, on January 28th, 1948, and received the first patient on February 4th, 1948. The Jubilee Hospital became the Nurses' Home. The first matron was Mrs. R. Howe, R.N., who had been in charge of the Jubilee Hospital for many years.

The poplar trees fronting the property were planted by school children to observe the coronation of King George VI, May 12th, 1937.

## Useful Products made from Eastend Clay

IN the escarpments on both sides of the valley of the Frochman River is a band of white clay which gave the river its original name—Whitemud. Mr. Ernest Potter one of the early settlers, sent a sample of this clay to England for identification, and it was identified as pottery clay.

This clay is a very freak formation, being composed of very finely pulverized igneous rocks such as felspar and granite, yet is located here hundreds of miles from any other such rock. It has been carried by water a great distance without being mixed with impurities. After being deposited it underwent a chemical change by decomposition, a process known as becoming kaolinized. In other countries this process has been induced by heat, but here, by some unknown agency, definitely not heat.

These clays are of great economic value and some 350 carloads a year are exported to the potteries at Medicine Hat, Alberta.



Clay #14 when first opened

## Anglican Church



Photo by A. Baucha

**T**HE Anglican Church was opened on Easter Sunday, April 23rd, 1918. The building was paid for by the Girls' Friendly Society of Huntley, Diocese of Chichester, Sussex, England, as a memorial to the Canadian and Sussex soldiers who fell in the First Great War.

The R. V. A. M. T. Landry was the first incumbent. He was joined by the Reverends H. H. Sackings, W. M. Allen, E. Baker and G. Nutt. Since 1935 only visiting Priests, Fr. M. Sheehan, The Reverends J. W. Carver, J. H. Hill, P. S. C. Bates, J. W. Reuss, C. J. Rhodes and at present D. Pasterfield.

The first Wardens were A. H. Stevens and Dr. Hardiman.

The first W. A. meeting was held on Feb 6th, 1920, with Miss Isabel Potter as President.

## Roman Catholic Church

By Rev F. Larivière



Photo by A. Baucha

**A**S the Town of Eastend came into existence in 1914, the number of Catholic families amounted to approximately thirty. This small congregation received pastoral service from the resident Priest of Dollard. Sunday Mass was then celebrated in the Pastime Theatre.

It was not until 1921, when St. Patrick Catholic Parish was founded and received its first resident Pastor in the person of Father Felix Kientz. Since the financial means were lacking to provide a new church, the Parish bought a vacant store building which was, and still is, used as the local Church.

These adolescent years of St. Patrick's have seen the birth of the Ladies' Altar Society,

which is a benevolent organization instituted to assure the upkeep and maintenance of the local Church property, and well have they succeeded in invigorating the small congregation with a constant effort towards progress. Then we can grant them a generous portion of the success achieved through St. Patrick's years of existence.

The organizing of our religious local enterprise can be linked with such names as Fathers Kientz, Knauff, Latendresse, Bisson, Gossé, Chebot, Bleau and Larivière. While the support of the prominent lay founders can be attributed to the Adamicks, Arendts, Bretons, Ganielys, Girards, Kokotts, Koenigs, Kleins, Landries, Lafrances, Maurices, Nebbelsfelds and Vogts.

The Spring of 1954 has seen the Catholic Rectory inaugurated, as modern living quarters for the resident Pastor, by His Exc. A. Decosse, Bishop of Gravelbourg. This project was made a success by the tireless efforts of Father Larivière and his generous and co-operative parishioners.

..

## Curling dates back Thirty Years

(By B. S. Walters)

**D**URING the winter of 1919 and 1920 the first curling games were played in the Town of Eastend. For want of a better place, a lean-to in the Crawford & Jones barn was used for this purpose. It was about forty feet short of regulation curling ice. However nearly every able-bodied man in the town and district took part in the sport and some exciting games were played. Owing to the shortness of the ice sheet it was possible to make some shots by getting in the opposite hack, which was indulged in until the opposing skip got wise to the performance, which was at once ruled out in no uncertain manner.

C. C. King was the first secretary-treasurer and other officials were: Percy Wood, William Wilton and James Houston.

This sheet of ice was used until the season of 1923-24, when a new regulation curling rink was built, with two sheets and a waiting room. This rink is in use at the present time.

At about this time the ladies also got interested in the game and their curling club was formed. Soon also, the school students became interested, and this branch of curling was introduced.

Annual bonspiels have been held every year since the beginning.

Curling usually starts off with the New Year's Bonspiel, as it has been found from years of experience that suitable ice cannot, as a general rule, be made before Christmas. This is usually followed by various club competitions for which suitable prizes and cups are given. The season usually ends up with the annual 'spels for both men and women, men's 'spels and 'spels for school students.

## United Church

(By Mrs. F. E. Wright)

THE United Church of Eastend was started in the year 1914 by two young student ministers—Mr. Graham representing the Presbyterian Church and Mr. Patience, of the Methodist Church.

Their home was a tent by the dam and services were sometimes held at the gravel pit followed by a ball game and a picnic, but the regular place was the upstairs of Anderson's Pool Hall.

In the fall of 1914, Mr. Yates, another student minister, came and in February, 1915, a meeting was held to decide if the Eastend Church should be Methodist or Presbyterian. Rev. Strang, of Regina, represented Presbyterians and Rev. McHaffie the Methodist Church. 17 were out and the ballot vote was a tie, one man not being able to vote.

In the morning bright and early, Rev. Strang and Mr. Yates canvassed the town and 19 more voted in favor of Presbyterian and the church became known as the Union Presbyterian Church.

The Ladies' Aid was organized by Mr. Yates and first meeting held on June 3rd, 1915 at home of Mrs. Remple. Officers elected were President, Mrs. J. Remple, Vice-President Mrs. P. L. ... .. Mrs. ... ..

In the fall Mr. Yates having joined the army and Mr. Thompson minister in Lethbridge ... .. Mr. Cookson saying "I am not much of a preacher, but I am good with the square, the hammer and the saw."

The manse was finished in August, 1916, and the church started. All went well till 1917 when the town had a small cyclone and billy yard and the framework shifted to the east, and the first choir left was the prop to help support and straighten the leaning church.

In 1918 the church was finished and the dedication service was held on Sunday, May 5th. Three services were held that day and the guest speakers were Rev. Strang and S. P. Rondeau. Several music numbers were given, one a solo by Frank Briscoe, editor of the Enterprise.

The Board of Managers were Jack Thompson, F. Englested Bill Anderson, Tony Anderson, Harry Ostlund and Ed Wright.

Peter Lindsay's mother donated the pulpit we still use.

When the 900-lb. bell rang for the first time calling the people to worship, those who had financed and helped to build this church and manse were very proud and happy of their achievement.

The people gave Mr. Cookson \$150.00 and due to his wife's illness left for the States. Then came Mr. Morrison in the summer that fall the dreadful "flu." The name of the church



meant little to him for all hours of the night and day he visited people of all religions.

After the "flu" was over Mr. Morrison preached a funeral sermon one afternoon for two boys of opposite faith, the caskets were side by side in front of this pulpit. As he finished the service he said with tears streaming down his face, "Never before have I had such an honor. Truly this is a Union Church."

The next summer Mr. Morrison left for Moosebank and we had Rev. Waugh, then Mr. Seymour, each for one year. Then Rev. Stewart and during his stay the addition to the manse was added and the name of the church was changed to The United Church of Canada, in 1925.

Rev. Stewart was followed by the following ministers: Revs. Yates, Thompson, Mr. Evans, Revs. Peters, Gardner, Trefrey and Hord.

During the years when there were no crops the church could not finance alone so money was borrowed from the Home Mission Board at Toronto and by 1942, when Mr. Hord came, the mortgage was \$1,700. Mrs. Wright, who was treasurer of the Church Board, asked permission from Board to try to collect the mortgage in \$5.00 donations. After interviewing 234 people either by letter or personal contact, \$1014.00 was collected and the mortgage was burned at annual meeting 1944 (Jan.).

New ... .. and Young People painted the church. Rev. Hord left for Francis and Rev. C. Brandow took over the work for two years, then Rev. J. Bray for two years, then Mr. Fisher.

The Anderson family had given a communion table and chairs as a memorial to Mr. Tony Anderson.

The Junior and Senior Woman's Association ... .. in their organizations and by collecting donations ... .. and also chairs for the choir. The Wright family donated one pew in memory of Cecil.

Members on Session are ... .. Members on Church Board are Ed Wright, chairman, Harry Tasche, secretary; Pete Shourounis, F. M. Demko, Mrs. Sigurdson and Mrs. Wright, treasurer.

## Educational Facilities grew with the town

(By B. S. Walters)

**T**HE first Board of Trustees of the Eastend School District, No. 3430, were W. P. Anderson, chairman, J. C. Strong and A. J. de L. Clark. Mr. Clark acted as Secretary-Treasurer.

The first teacher engaged was Byron Walters. School opened in September 1914 with fifteen pupils enrolled on the day of opening. The enrollment in 1953 was 203.

In 1914 the first school was conducted in the HsJ of Anderson Brothers, which is now used by the L.O.O.F. Lodge over the Drug Store. The building was originally located where Mr. Ed Youngberg's house now stands.

The first two rooms in the present old brick school was erected in 1915. Two additional rooms were added in 1917. In 1926 the small brick Primary School was added. The Memorial Hall, containing two high school rooms, auditorium, shop and Home Economics department, was erected in 1947 to 1949.

George Underwood acted as principal for twenty-four years, beginning July 1921, and ending September 1st, 1945.

The following were the principals:

Byron Walters	- -	1914 to 1915
Ethel Bell	- -	1916 to 1917
Miss Mangen	- -	1917 to 1918
R. McLaughlin	- -	1918 to 1921
Geo. Underwood	- -	1921 to 1945
H. R. Pea	- -	1945 to 1946
H. F. George	- -	1946 to 1947
J. F. R. Atkins	- -	1947 to



Photo by A. Barwick

## Eastend School Unit, No. 8



**E**ASTEND School Unit No. 8 was set up on a five-year trial basis on September 17, 1945. At the end of the five-year period no petitions for a vote on its disestablishment were submitted so the Unit became permanent on September 17, 1950. At the time of its inception eighty-eight school districts were included in the Unit, but at later dates two additional districts were added, making a total of ninety.

The first Unit office was located in the

dining room of the Eastend Hotel, but during 1946 the Westland School was moved into Eastend and re-modelled to provide suitable office accommodation.

At the first meeting of the Unit Board, held on October 9, 1945, the following members were present: Mr. George Gilbertson, Frontier, (chairman); Mr. Harry Olson, Robsart; Mr. Andrew McRae, Covenlock; Mr. Elmer Fletcher, Ravenscrag, and Mr. Alfred Spencer, Southfork.

Other persons who acted on the Unit Board prior to the end of 1954, included Mr. C. Gregory, Ravenscrag; Mr. J. McLuhan, Vidora; Mr. C. MacRae, Eastend; Mr. O. Omerheim, Frontier; and Mr. P. Kalnning, Senste.

Mr. H. T. Neill served as Secretary-Treasurer during the Fall of 1945, but was succeeded by Mr. Henry Tasche in January 1946. Mr. Alex Gutwin was engaged after Mr. Tasche resigned in April 1950.

Mr. J. E. Ingram served as School Superintendent during the entire 1945-1954 period.

Mr. D. H. Rittinger was engaged as Work Foreman in April, 1947, and still held this position at the end of 1954.





## Eastend 4-H Beef Club

(By W White)

**O**RGANIZED in 1941 by the Eastend Agricultural Society as the Eastend Baby Beef Club. The committee appointed by them to direct was composed of R. Stewart, W. E. Catch and Fred Hensman.

The first show was held on June 8th, 1942, and the prize money was furnished by the Eastend Agricultural Society and the Horned Cattle fund.

In 1943, Mr. E. R. Nash was appointed Leader and since that time the Club has carried on entirely on its own, saving a grant from the Saskatchewan University. There has been a show every year since, except the year of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

At the show in 1954, there were 23 exhibits and in spite of mud and rain an excellent show was held with approximately one hundred and fifty visitors. In 1949, under the leadership of Mr. Wilbert Lewis, the Club changed its name to the Eastend 4-H Club. In 1949, while still

under the leadership of Mr. Wilbert Lewis, at the suggestion of Mr. Hugh Robinson, the Agricultural Representative, some seven members of the Club visited the 4-H Club of Montana at Turner, Montana. This visit has been returned back and forth every year since and the visiting members have grown until some thousand people from both sides of the border held a rally in the Cypress Hills Park in 1954. The largest international exchange of 4-H members that has so far been held in Saskatchewan.

This organization has shown what can be done in the spirit of co-operation between the youth of our country and the youth of international neighbors. Perhaps this is in a small way the approach to closer associations and friendly relations between countries.

This is indeed the building of open-minded citizens of the future. At the present time the Club is under the leadership of Mr. W. White and there are twenty-two members.



Market Day at the Stock Yards

## Agricultural Society

(By Wilbert Lewis)

**T**HE first meeting of the Eastend Agricultural Society was held on April 9th, 1921. In a community such as ours this Society was to have far-reaching effects.

The first President was Harry Tyner and the first Secretary-Treasurer was Byron Walters. The original Board of Directors were Messrs. A. H. Stevens, W. G. Bock, T. Kokott,

G. Morrison, L. F. Gregory, S. O. Bengtson, R. Dane, F. Cross, W. Rickerton, Mrs. R. H. Miller, Mrs. H. Ostlund, Mrs. Rickerton. In the early years the big event of the year was the agricultural fair, sponsored by this Society.

In 1924, Mr. J. Anderson became President, followed by Mr. H. Ostlund in 1928. In 1931, L. F. Gregory took over the helm. During all these years Byron Walters served as Secretary.

During the hungry thirties the Society became inactive and was not revived until 1942. Until 1947 the A.I.A. took the place of the Agricultural Society. This Society was very ably

headed by Bob Wilkinson and O. B. Larson and distributed many bushels of registered seed and fruit trees in the community.

In 1947 the A.I.A. was taken over by the Agricultural Society and J. Fletcher was nominated President and Don Wig, Sec.-Treas. R. C. Johnson followed as President in 1948 and Louis Arndt became Sec.-Treas. In this year the present livestock corrals were built, the first of their kind in Saskatchewan. They were built to sell beef through the auction ring for the farmer or rancher.

In the fall of 1948, L. F. Gregory again became President and Bruce Currie took over as Sec.-Treas. Len carried on until 1951 as President. In the fall of 1949, Wilbert Lewis was nominated as the Sec. Treas., and at the time of writing is still in that position.

In 1951, Bob Wilkinson became President, and in 1952 the present President, O. B. Larson,

took office.

The Eastend Baby Beef Club and other clubs in the district have always been sponsored and helped by the Society and the Memorial Hall was not forgotten by the members.

Through the years most of the farmers of the district have served on the Board of Directors or assisted in the functions of this organization. The annual banquet is the main event of the fall season when town and country get together for a sit-down supper and guest speakers from all walks of life have honored us on this occasion.

This Society holds one of the oldest charters in the Province as an active Society, and has strived to assist all agricultural projects such as machinery field days and the Light Horse Show and other projects too numerous to mention, always striving to better this agricultural community in which we live.

## History of the Eastend Fire Brigade

(By A. G. MacIntyre)

THE first fire brigade was organized in 1914, with Walt Stevenson, a building contractor, as its first chief. The equipment consisted of two chemical engines, two ladders and two dozen water pails for the bucket brigade.

The first fire hall was built on the lot where the Credit Union building stands today. This building was sold to Mr. A. Ghetti and re-modelled as a dwelling and is now owned by Mr. Dave Gordon.

In 1923 a new Rickle Pumper, driven by a Ford Model T engine, was purchased and a new brick hall was built which houses the present equipment. In the early days the first team of horses arriving at the fire had received five dollars for hauling the Pumper to the river. The present equipment consists of one two-ton Ford truck, with pump and a five-hundred gallon water tank, two chemical engines, two ladders and twelve hundred feet of hose.

The first fire was on April 12, 1915, and of the membership then, only two are still on the brigade, namely Art Mummery and A. G. MacIntyre. The present secretary, O. B. Larson, has held that position for thirty-five consecutive years. A. G. MacIntyre resigned as fire chief in 1950 after having given twenty five years' service. Andy Bidaux now holds the post of fire chief.

The first major fire was in February 1916, when the hotel, owned by Molitor and Day was burned to the ground. The next was the Alberta-Pacific elevator in 1922, and the Siavap elevator in 1923. From then on good fortune smiled on the town until the disastrous

fire in October, 1951, when the Larson & MacIntyre hardware store, the Eastend pool hall and Dane & MacLeod's general store were completely destroyed. The fire brigade records were lost in this fire.



Photo by A. Beeche

The present Fire Hall, with Electric Street



Volunteer Fire Brigade at the first fire

# Rural Municipality of White Valley, No. 49

(By Jean LeBastard)

THE settlers in Townships 4, 5 and 6, Ranges 19, 20 and 21, West 3rd Meridian, organized themselves a Rural Municipality in the year 1912. The ratepayers elected six Councillors to represent their respective divisions: Edgar Evenson, Div. 1, Henry E. Haaverson, Div. 2, Jack Elfert, Div. 3, P. C. Bloom, Div. 4, H. L. Bentley, Div. 5 and D. Morrison, Div. 6. The Council took office on January 1st, 1913.

It elected from its members Mr. P. C. Bloom for Reeve, which post he held for three consecutive years, and Mr. G. F. Watson was the first Secretary-Treasurer, which office he held for one year, 1913.

Mr. Henry E. Haaverson was Secretary-Treasurer for 1914, 1915 and 1916.

Records show the first estimated resident farmers for 1914 as 560 and estimated population as 1,800.

Mr. W. R. Fowler was elected Reeve for 1916. In 1917 Mr. George Watson became Reeve and held office for three years—1917 to 1919, and Mr. P. C. Bloom was Secretary for 1917 and the same year 1917 the records show the population as 650 resident farmers and 2,000 population.

Mr. W. Van Allen was Secretary-Treasurer for the years 1919, 1920 and 1921. Resigned in 1922 in January, was replaced by Mr. P. V. Hollenbeck who held office for one month only. The population took a sharp drop after the drought years of 1917, 1918 and 1919, and the records show the estimated resident farmers as 360 and the total population 960.

Mr. George Morrison was Reeve in 1920 and Mr. W. E. McKinnon was Reeve in 1921. An unusual occurrence took place in 1921. At the municipal elections in December a petition was taken on the question of disorganizing, which carried by a majority of 3 1/2 to 1. However, disorganization did not take place.

In 1922, in the month of April, Mr. R. S. Walters became Secretary-Treasurer, which post he has held ever since, giving over thirty-three years of efficient service.

In 1922, Mr. G. F. Watson became Reeve again and was in office for seven consecutive years—from 1922 to 1928 inclusive.

Mr. P. C. Bloom was Reeve in 1929 and 1930. Mr. G. F. Watson in 1931. Mr. Joe Hardwick in 1932 and 1933.

Mr. George Watson became Reeve again in 1934 until February when he was accidentally killed. He had given his Municipality 12 years' faithful service as Reeve and one year as Secretary-Treasurer.

Mr. Watson was succeeded by Mr. D. J. McCuaig as Reeve in April, 1934, which office he held until 1939 which was probably the most difficult years in the history of the Municipality.

In 1940 Mr. Donat Maynard took the office of Reeve and held it for five years, and in 1945 the present Reeve, Jean LeBastard, took office and has held it the last ten years.

During the 1930s the population took an other drop of at least 30 per cent of the 1920 estimates, bringing it down to between 600 and 650. The population has since remained at this figure.

During the 42 years of municipal government in R.M. 49, fifty ratepayers have held office.

The following are members of the 1934 Council: Div. 1, Mr. J. J. Peacock; Div. 2, Mr. Dave Gordon; Div. 3, Mr. Nicol McCuaig; Div. 4, Mr. Ralph Aadland; Div. 5, Mr. Cecil Wells; Div. 6, Mr. Donat Girard (deputy Reeve), Reeve, Mr. Jean LeBastard.



Digging ditches for the Enright & Strong irrigation scheme



The first bridge over the Whitemud in Eastend, located east of the Z-X ranch buildings. Built by Enright & Strong, 1905.

## Union Bank among first to establish business

(By G. A. Beane)



The first bank at Eastend.  
N. D. Gordon (manager), Angus McLeod, H. Ostlund

**I**N the late fall of 1913, Mr N. D. Gordon and his assistant, Jimmie Cook, came here from the Union Bank branch at Gull Lake and opened the first bank in Eastend, setting up their office in one of the log buildings at the Z-X ranch. Here, in addition to banking was conducted a real estate and insurance business by J. A. Danlea, pending the erection of more suitable quarters in the business section of the town. A small building was put up on the site now occupied by Dr. Milson's office, and here the bank carried on business for a few months until permanent quarters were built on the corner lot now occupied by the post office. The "Union" carried on here until 1930 when a red brick building was constructed. The temporary quarters just east of the hotel was later used as a jewellers' store and the R.C.M.P. detachment.

In 1914, the Merchants Bank had its quarters in a frame building where now stands the Bank of Montreal. Mr R. C. McIntyre was its first and only manager, and he carried on for a few short months when the "Merchants" decided to discontinue business here, leaving the field of finance entirely to the "Union".

Mr Gordon, Mr Cook and Mr McIntyre all joined the Canadian Armed Forces for service in the First War, the latter serving in a

Canadian Scottish regiment. Cook and McIntyre both returned to Canada following the cessation of hostilities, but Gordon was killed in 1917 while serving with his regiment near St. Quentin, France.

During the latter part of the war the Merchants Bank was absorbed by the Bank of Montreal, and in the spring of 1919 the branch was reopened by Mr J. Houston, who served as manager for nine years, using the old quarters until the present building was opened in 1931. Since that time the Montreal has undergone various changes in management and staff. Mr G. N. Andreassen, a former accountant here, took over management in 1953.

The Union opened a new brick building in November, 1930, replacing the frame structure on the corner lot, and now occupied by the postal department. Mr P. G. Wood was manager at the time, and when he transferred to Gravelbourg, Mr W. E. Bowen filled the post until his transfer to Abbey in February, 1935. Then came Mr K. R. Bower, who was manager at the time the Royal and the Union amalgamated September 1st, 1925, and he in turn was relieved by Mr J. J. Brown in November, 1936, serving here until his transfer to Perth in January 1931, when Mr L. E. Guibault took over. He was destined to be

the last of a long line of managers at Eastend, serving the Union, and later the Royal, when, due to insufficient volume of business to support two banks the Royal bowed out in favour of the E. of M., and closed April 30th, 1932. The staff was sent to write and points throughout the province, but on instructions from his head office Mr Gullbault remained here till the fall to arrange settlement of outstanding accounts to the bank.



Photo by A. Bessie

## Light Horse Improvement Society

(By H. S. Jickling)

**E**ASTEND saw its first Light Horse Show in 1937. For a few years previous to that Col. G. L. Greenlay, of the Climax district, a noted cavalry officer and breeder of thoroughbred saddle horses, had held a small show at his ranch. The writer discussed with him the matter of holding the show at Eastend, this being a more central point and would control a greater attendance and a larger number of horses.

A meeting was called and attended by a number of local horsemen. The name, The Eastend Light Horse Improvement Society was adopted. The objects of the organization being the improvement of the type and quality of the saddle horses raised in the district. Thoroughbred stallions have been provided by the Department of Agriculture and the Saskatchewan Hunter, Saddle and Light Horse Society. Such outstanding stallions as Orb Ray, African, Dan Jackson, Tangitoe, Lakemot and Four Oaks.

Another important object of the Society is the training in showmanship and the proper handling of horses in the show ring. Juvenile classes and junior sports are the principle part of our programme and every encouragement given to the youthful showmen. The result of this policy has been a steady improvement in show ring manners and deportment.

A very important contributing factor to the success of the Eastend Light Horse Show was the riding school conducted by Col.

Greenlay and his son and daughter in law (Dan and Ellen) in the years 1938, 1939, 1940 and 1941. This school was held two weeks prior to the show. Many of their pupils became outstanding riders and horsemen and have passed on their training to the younger generation.

Ranchers and farmers together with Government grants and private donations have all contributed to our success. Officers are selected from among the members of the Society and changed when occasion demands. All have contributed time and talents which space will not permit me to enumerate.

Present officers are John Stewart, president; H. Noland, vice-president, H. S. Jickling, secretary treasurer.

## Savings and Credit Union

(By C. E. Bessie)

**T**HE Eastend Savings and Credit Union, Ltd., was organized on July 19th, 1944, when the Charter No. 148 was issued by the Registrar of Credit Unions.

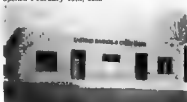
The first application for membership being that of Mr Joseph Fletcher Ravenscar, and the First Provisional Secretary being Mr J. C. Matthews, followed by Mr H. J. Minall, Mr Lawrence Fether, Mr Clarence Johnson and Mr Ross Smith.

To date application for membership have reached 229, with some removals, by members leaving the district and some by death, leaves the members on roll at 183.

Seventeen men make up the present full slate of officials with nine on the Board of Directors, four on the Credit Committee and three on the Supervisory Audit Committee.

President of the Branch is Mr Gordon MacRae. Vice-President Mr Wilbert Lewis. Other officials are Mr. Frank Duke, Mr. Don Wig, Mr. Alan Sinclair, Mr. George Fletcher, Mr. Joe Bleukens, Mr. Emil Dordy, Mr. Len Gregory, Mr. Henri LeBastard, Mr. Perry Hudson, Mr. Charlie Gregory, Mr. Nick Ilincovitch, Mr. Gene Mann, Mr. Jean LeBastard, Mr. William P. Anderson.

Since organization the branch has made \$112,799.00 in loans to members and built their local office in late 1954, which was officially opened February 16th, 1955.



## Lowell Homemakers' Club

THE record of the Lowell Homemakers' Club, or at least that group of club women, dates back to 1914. There are still three club members left of this original group in the present Homemakers' Club: Mrs. Winnifred Anderson, Mrs. Palma Bengtson and Mrs. Emma Johnson.

Those women were all new in the country. In those early days, all felt the need of an organization that would bring them together at least once a month, if not oftener. With the result that they became a branch of the local Grain Growers, an organization quite active at that time. Under this heading they furnished and supported the first rest room in Eastend.

The need of Red Cross work arose in the First World War. They then organized and continued in this work until 1927, at which time a new six-bed hospital had been built in Eastend. Again they re-organized as a Hospital Auxiliary, but they found as time went on this limited their work to hospital aid only. They thought as a Homemakers' Club they could still support the hospital while finding a

wider field for both work and study. So once again, with the help of Miss Oxner from the University of Saskatchewan, they re-organized as a Homemakers' Club, and as such have worked for nearly twenty five years.

When the first hospital was built they furnished a sun porch and considered it their responsibility to renew whatever might be needed there as time went on. They also supplied other needs such as bath a wheel and hand stretcher.

Since then a new hospital has been built. This time they furnished a complete ward, furnish new curtains or whatever may be needed.

Other activities these last years has been the furnishing and upkeep of a new modern rest room and a yearly scholarship of twenty dollars to the most deserving student finishing grade twelve in the high school at Eastend, this to be used in furthering of their education.

The present President of the Club is Mrs. Clarence Gregory with Mrs. Lorraine Currie as Secretary. There are twenty-four members.



F. Lequerre's general store, completed and up and for business late in 1914. The building is on the property now occupied by St. Patrick's Church.



First members of Eastend Band

## Canadian Legion B.E.S.L.

(By H. Tasche)

**D**URING the year 1919 the Veterans of World War I, from Eastend and District, laid plans and organized a branch of the Great War Veterans Association at Eastend, with V. B. Luckey as President and held meetings in the Masonic Hall, above the present drug store, accommodation being provided free of charge by the Masons. Rooms were equipped with easy chairs, bookcase, billiard table, etc. While the branch worked hard to better the lot of the veteran, there were also times when the members provided entertainment of a lighter nature, such as smooches and so forth. Many will recall with humour the "One and only Home Talent Play," presented by veterans in the old picture show premises.

The G.W.V.A. was later re-organized Dominion-wide to The Canadian Legion, British Empire Service League. On July 18th, 1928, a charter was issued to the local branch in which it was designated as "The Eastend (Sask. Branch) No. 48, of the Canadian Legion B.E.S.L. Charter member listed were Chas. Lock, Harry Stredwick, G. A. Beane, B. S. Walters, A. J. de L. Clark, R. Binnett, G. A. Patterson, H. S. Juckling, O. B. Larson, H. T. Halvorson, C. C. King, John Garvin, J. Middleton, R. A. Wilkinson, A. A. Phillips.

Since that time the Legion purchased land and landscaped it as a park. The present Boy Scouts Hall is on these grounds. During the Jubilee Year the branch made a grant of \$1000 for the purpose of building the Jubilee Hospital, which at the present time is the nurses' residence. A ward has been completely equipped in the present hospital and is known as the "Legion Room."

The members of the Eastend branch were the originators of the idea of erecting the present Memorial Hall, to which they gave a sizeable amount of money and labour.

During the year of the flood, through the efforts of the local branch, many veterans received aid from Legion funds. From time to time comrades in need of assistance have been helped. Keen interest was shown in the welfare of those boys who served in World War



The present Eastend Post Office

### II. and in the Korean War

In recent years the Legion has followed a planned yearly program in which it has endeavored to associate itself with undertakings which were of real value to veterans and to the community. Assistance has been given to the Boy Scouts, a T.B. Amateur Hour has been sponsored, lead was taken to put on the Coronation celebration. The branch has taken charge of the Remembrance Day service and has put it on with dignity. The yearly

Legion Night has grown to be a real success. A purely Legion curling bonspiel is put on each year to which all Legion branches in the area are invited. They are the originators of the "Wooden Rock Curling 'Spel'" the only one of its kind in the world. Truly the Eastend Branch No. 48 has been active and has a right to its slogan "If the Legion puts it on, it's good."

### HONOUR ROLL

In World War I, number of comrades, 80; in World War II, 131; in the Korean War, 4.

In World War I, those who paid the supreme sacrifice, 17; in World War II, 7.



Review at annual Remembrance Day service



## Memorial Hall

(By Dr. R. Henderson)

**I**N August, 1946, the Eastend Branch of the Canadian Legion voted to investigate the construction of a Memorial Hall. After inspecting Air Force buildings at Mossbank and Assiniboia the Legion recommended that a public meeting be held on December 11, 1946. At that meeting the Eastend Memorial Hall Co-operative Association, Limited, was formed and a fund-raising drive started.

In July 1947, an agreement was made between the Eastend Memorial Hall Co-operative Association, the Eastend School District No. 3430, and the Eastend School Unit No. 8. The Eastend School District agreed to build a combined Technical High School and Community Centre. The School Unit agreed to equip the High School and the Memorial Hall Co-operative Association agreed to donate \$10,000 in return for a ninety-nine (99) year lease on the auditorium and club rooms.

In June, 1947, a crew was sent to Assiniboia to dismantle an Air Force mess hall and move it to Eastend.

Construction was started in May 1948, and had advanced far enough for a dance to be held by the Light Horse Improvement Association in September and the annual carnival was held in October.

School classes opened in August 1949.

During 1947 and 1948 the Young Men's Board of Trade raised over \$5,000, the proceeds of their annual carnival and rodeo. In these endeavours they were assisted by the Canadian Legion, the Legion Auxiliary, the Hospital



Auxiliary, the Lowell Homemakers, the Knollys Wheat Pool Committee, the School Staff, Students' Council, Drama Club and the Agricultural Society.

The Eastend Agricultural Society donated tables and benches. The Students' Council equipped the stage and the Ladies' Memorial Hall Club provided the dishes and silverware to serve 250 people.

The Eastend Memorial Hall, an undertaking every member of the community is justly proud of, was made possible by the united efforts of the whole community.

## Senior Board of Trade

(By F. E. Wright)

**U**NFORTUNATELY the Board of Trade records were destroyed in Eastend's most disastrous fire when the business places of Dano & MacLeod, Larson & MacIntyre and W. Marchbank were destroyed.

The Board of Trade was organized in 1914 with every business man in Eastend and a number from the country were enrolled as members. Without doubt they were a very enthusiastic group, because in spite of the dry year they raised \$2,200.00 and staged a two-day stampede, which was well attended. "Slippers" won the hucking championship. The gate receipts were \$1,780.00, so the townpeople did not lose too large an amount.

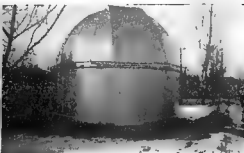
A. H. Stevens for a number of years was president and without doubt was our hardest working president. He never was too busy to go to bed for the town and district. Steve was followed in that office by Art. Simpson, Wm.

Miller, Bob Hassard, Bob Dane and at the time of writing W. Mironuck.

For many years Ed Wright was secretary, treasurer and at the termination of his services he was given a life membership, during the regime of Wm. Miller and Harry Otterson.

Following Ed Wright as secretary were Harry Otterson, A. G. MacIntyre, Jack Matthews and the position is now held by Charles Beane.

The Board of Trade was always active in putting on sports days, the building of roads, the establishment of an irrigation district and re-building the dam on the Frenchman River, and any move that would benefit Eastend town and district. The senior Board of Trade went into a slump during the drought years; however they are again on the job and it is to be hoped that they will accomplish many worthwhile objectives.



Observatory, designed and built by the late Jack Wilkinson

## Eastend Astronomical Society

(By G. L. Mann)

THE year 1948 saw Jack Wilkinson, our local machinist and general repairman begin to show interest in astronomy in general and reflecting telescopes in particular. His first effort, a six-inch reflector, whetted his desire for greater things to see, so his next one, an eight-inch, turned out to be very satisfactory and was greatly enjoyed by many local citizens, who saw the heavens as they never thought them to be.

After his unfortunate demise in 1953, a Society was formed called the Eastend Astronomical Society, whose first officers were: Chairman G. L. Mann, Sec. Treas. C. E. Beasie, Directors, H. S. Jones, F. Atkins, A. Mummery, A. Bruche, G. A. Beane.

Memberships were sold and the domes and



The late Jack Wilkinson with the eight-inch telescope he built

score were purchased from the Wilkinson estate.

The aims of the Society are to further the study of the stars and perhaps some day to help develop a budding Newton.

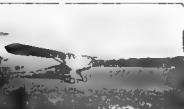
The observatory was put in operation early in 1955, and thought is now being given to the construction of another and larger reflector. In the above-mentioned operations all credit must be given to the originator—our dear departed friend Jack, and to the community at large, who so nobly assisted with free labor and funds so that the great undertaking which bears his name—The Wilkinson Memorial Observatory—may continue to be of benefit to this community.

## Eastend Airport

(By Eldon Bengtson)

IN 1949, the Town of Eastend secured the North-east Quarter of Section 16-7-21, West 3rd, for the purpose of building an airport. A committee was appointed, consisting of Eldon Bengtson, Joe Bruckers and Vance Harline who, with donations from the community, constructed two runways with markers. This has proved of great benefit to the community as it has been used by the air ambulance many times.

There is a Luscombe plane at the airport for emergency service.



Airplane at Eastend Airport

## Young Men's Board of Trade

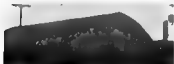
(By C. E. Beale)

**O**RGANIZED in 1938, the Eastend Young Men's Board of Trade has carried out many activities associated with young people in our district. The purpose of the organization is the sponsorship of all sports and recreational activities in the Town of Eastend. Previously the Canadian Legion had endeavored to do this.

In 1938 our organization sponsored a carnival for the purpose of raising funds for all good causes in the community. In 1938 the Stockmen's Convention was held at Eastend and a barbecue was organized in conjunction with the Young Men's Board of Trade.

Primary in the program of the Young Men's Board of Trade of our community was the eventual building of a skating rink. This project culminated in 1954 and Eastend now proudly enjoys the winter skating comforts of a beautiful laminated-glass structure 300 feet by 78 feet. The building of the skating rink was a gradual process which saw the location changed and consisted at first of open-air rinks. In November, 1939, after two carnivals had been successfully sponsored and substantial funds were on hand the Y.M.B.T. and the Town Council jointly made application to the Civic Improvement Plan and proposed the first skating rink. A grant was secured equivalent to the funds on hand and through the Social Aid works the old Eastend Boarding House was purchased. This building was adapted to waiting rooms and moved to the first site of the skating rink situated north across the river near the race track. This arrangement did not prove satisfactory due to the great distance of the rink from the residential area and in 1940 the waiting rooms and rink were moved near the curling rink to the present site.

In 1953 the rink waiting rooms suffered considerable loss by fire. Probably this incident was instrumental in favoring the construction of the present modern building.



New Skating Rink at Eastend

The rink project sponsored by the Y.M.B.T. represents the efforts of a mammoth community enterprise including the organization of carnivals each Fall, the participation in fund-raising activities by the Ladies' Skating Rink committee and the donation of services and

funds by innumerable active citizens organized into a Skating Rink Booster Club. These organizations along with the spirit of the Y.M.B.T. carried out fund-raising activities throughout the year. The Y.M.B.T. has sponsored a yearly Rodeo from which profits have also been turned in to the rink project.

The first Eastend rodeo was held in 1914 and was to have been an annual event but was discontinued during World War I and was not revived till the Y.M.B.T. took over, and saving the year of the disastrous flood, 1962, has been held every year since.

In 1945 the Y.M.B.T. established a sports committee for the purpose of supporting hockey and baseball for young people. Funds were made available for the purchase of equipment and running tournaments. Funds appropriated for these sports were fully repaid when the clubs were able.

Eastend finds itself a fortunate Child of Nature. The Frenchman River follows its leisurely winding course through and around our lovely town. Just west of the town, a natural sandy turn of the river forms an ideal swimming pool. The Y.M.B.T. secured a government grant and P.F.R.A. aid built two bathing houses. Floats and bathing bridge have been added and the river dredged out. The P.F.R.A. have recently driven piles and railings against the higher banks and rip-rapped them.

The Y.M.B.T. gave substantial assistance to the construction of the Eastend Memorial Hall and has always pursued its original purpose and sincerely invites young men of the future to generate enthusiasm for a healthy sports-minded community.



Model of a Horned Blonnoor

A. Dord, with model of a Horned Blonnoor of a type never found before.



The Enterprise office just completed. W. (L.) G. A. Beane, N. D. Gordon, H. K. Leaf, R. R. Whiskin

## *The Enterprise is born*

(By G. A. Beane)

**E**ARLY in the year 1914 Mr R. R. Whiskin, a real estate and insurance agent, doing business at Cupar, Sask., was seeking a new opening, and after looking over prospects along the Empress line journeyed south to Eastend. The location, with its picturesque setting, was just the place he was seeking. His intention was to carry on the line of business he had conducted in Cupar for several years. A few months later he was joined by Mr A. H. Stevens, also of Cupar, and a partnership was formed. The first issue of The Enterprise shows them established in real estate and insurance, under the firm name of Whiskin & Stevens.

Prior to joining to his brother Mr Whiskin was publisher of The Cupar Herald, and with this experience behind him he was persuaded to start a weekly paper in Eastend. Usually before a publisher risks his capital, a town must be well established with prospects of reasonable remunerative business as a guarantee. With the town only in its embryo stage, the venture was considered highly enterprising. Hence the paper's name—The Enterprise.

Although a former editor and publisher Mr Whiskin knew nothing of printing; in addition to financing this added another problem. Hiring suitable help was not easy. But no problem was too difficult for Bert once he had made up his mind. With a scheme in mind he returned to Cupar, and after long persuasion he finally talked his brother into releasing the present publisher of The Enterprise, who was at that time working on The Cupar Herald. So, at the latter part of April, after a tortuous ride over mazy roads from Gull Lake, he found himself on The Enterprise property, with the building only half erected, no machinery and no equipment. Here in due time Mr Herb. Tansley the building contractor, introduced him to the Canadian screwdriver—a hammer. Door hanging was in progress at the time. Strange how such oddities sometimes leave a lasting impression.

At that time the railway had not reached Eastend, and all printing machinery and equipment was freighted overland from Gull Lake. These constituted some of the heaviest loads

hauled here, and well he remembers the explosive nature of Mr. Gene Loomis, who made the hauls, with his son Claude. The soft, muddy prairie trails were not conducive to easy trouble-free hauling, and over a particularly

heavy press on to the prairie. There it sat all night before it could be re-loaded. The accident didn't improve the operation of the press, and many patient hours were spent before it finally ran with satisfactory results. The first issue came off the press June 11th, 1914, with six pages of home print and well supported by business firms of the town. Among the 41 advertisers in the first issue appeared the following: W. J. Bates, M.D., G. S. Thornwell, Veterinary Surgeon, Thos. R. Kinney, Architect, B. A. Notary Public, E. M. Forcier, J. R. Cassidy, Sign Writer, W. J. General Merchant, N. J. Uglum, Lumber Co., F. Querre, Painter and Decorator, Eastend Hotel (McLor & Day), Whiskin & Stevens, Insurance Agents, Eastend Livery Stable (Crawford, Clark & Thompson), McPherson & Youngberg, Hardware Merchants, Beniley & Kinney Construction Co., Merchants Bank, A. M. McGregor, Blacksmith, Geo. Barr, Lumber Co., Eastend Garage and Automobile Livery (ones), W. H. Wilton, Garage, R. J. Whiskin, Brick

layer and Plasterer, C. R. Arbogast, Grain Buyer, Eastend Restaurant, Eastend Laundry, Guest & Sons, Painters and Decorators, Klein Brothers, Butchers, Thompson & Daniels (Pastime Theatre), Angus McLeod's Livery Barn, Eastend Trading Co., C. J. Mason, Contractor, Kelsey's Drug Store, H. W. Tansley Building Contractor, R. V. Gregg, Real Estate and Insurance, Eastend Hardware Co. (J. A. Remple and S. H. Jelmeland), Eastend Gas, Coal and Oil Co., H. A. Hahn, Building Contractor, Eastend Meat Market (Waring & McNeil), Barber Shop and Pool Hall (Anderson Bros.), Barber Shop and Billiard Parlor (Gatschene and Puckett), Wright & Jickling, Hardware and Implements, Union Bank.

The name of Mrs. J. C. Strong was the first subscriber's name to appear on The Enterprise mailing list. Her dollar bill was honored with a frame and for a long time it hung in the office of Whiskin & Stevens until finally it no doubt went the way of all dollars.

Holding a staff was a problem during the war. One after another joined the army, and after losing his partner to the active service forces Mr. Whiskin found the duties too heavy to carry and disposed of the plant to Mr. Frank Briscoe. After a period of army life the present publisher came back in 1918 and purchased The Enterprise from Mr. Briscoe.



An aerial view of Eastend as it looked during the flood of April, 1917.

# Memories

(1901 AND ON)

(By Frank Barroby, formerly of Ravencrest)

The days gone by were good old days,  
Though oftentimes somewhat rough;  
We made the best of what we had,  
And figured it enough.  
But now we're up to date, and have  
Ideas ultra modern,  
It's now quite right to bellyache  
And prove that we're downtrodden.

I guess we had no time for this,  
In days now long ago,  
No cars to make the journey short,  
No roads, no radio  
Praps once or twice a year we hauled  
Supplies from Maple Creek;  
Joe Renaud used to bring the mail,  
To Cross's once a week.

This weekly trip took him two days,  
Sixty miles each way,  
Through cold intense, and blizzards,  
He'd seldom miss a day  
No road he had to guide his way,  
From Frenchman to Skull Creek,  
But willows every fifty yards,  
Across this bench so bleak

Our postmasters were Harry Cross,  
And then George Dillingbecke  
While after him came B. E. Rose  
And many a luscious joke was cracked,  
While waiting for our mail.  
And to play some good draw poker,  
We'd very seldom fail.

And sure it is we all enjoyed  
To meet each Friday night.  
We heard the news and got our mail  
And went home feeling bright.  
Few sunners and machine bills then,  
To whiten up our hair,  
And hay was in abundance,  
With range beyond compare.

The stags and parties which took place  
Round Christmas time each year,  
Were quite an institution, with  
Good fellowship and cheer  
We from the West each year would ride  
Some twenty miles North-east,  
Where Crawford and his partner Jones  
Put up a crackling feast

Praps twenty-five would be on hand  
To "chew the rag" and dine,  
Churchwarden pipes were handed round,  
Burke's Irish, beer and wine  
And then the Chimney Cookee chaps  
Would visit us up West,  
At Clifford Hall's or somewhere else,  
Wherever suited best

And one time when we came to Hall's,  
A festive time to spend,  
A most respected citizen,  
Who lives now in Eastend  
Imbibed too much praps for his good,  
And got a bad headache,  
Quoth he "I think I'll go outside,  
A corner-off to take."

The temperature I here must state,  
Was 42 below,  
When Charlie Lock and Corry took  
Our friend out in the snow  
They walked him up, they walked him down,  
Which eased his aching head,  
But suddenly on looking down,  
"I've got no boots," he said

With haste they took their patient in,  
He just had on his socks;  
His head was clear, his feet were cold,  
About like icy blocks.  
But he revived—the fun went on,  
Until the dawn was nigh,  
One chap went through the window, but  
I'd better say good-bye





**WHEN WATER SPORTS WERE POPULAR**

11th of July sports day scene at the Old Swimming Hole, 1919

A crowd like this was on hand every Sunday during the  
bathing season







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HISTORY AND REMINISCENCES OF  
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